

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of enlarging a travel of a piezoelectric sensor comprising the steps of:

shrinking the piezoelectric sensor by applying a potential difference;

providing an enlarging means having a proximal end and an end opposed to the proximal end, the opposed end of the enlarging means being elastically attached to the piezoelectric sensor; and

enlarging the travel of the piezoelectric sensor through by causing the shrinkage of the piezoelectric sensor to rotate the enlarging means about the opposed end of the enlarging means; and

switching a contact switch by contacting the electrode of the enlarging means.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the piezoelectric sensor is provided with a first electrode and a second electrode is provided at the proximal end of the enlarging means provided with a lateral electrode at its proximal end. whereby the first and the second electrodes may contact each other when the enlarging means is rotated due to shrinkage of the piezoelectric sensor.

3. (currently amended) A MEMS switch comprising:

a piezoelectric sensor having a first electrode at [[its]] a one end of the piezoelectric sensor;
an actuator connected to the piezoelectric sensor at [[its]] a one end of the actuator;
and

means for enlarging the travel of the piezoelectric sensor, having a second electrode to face the first electrode, the second electrode being provided at [[its]] a one end of the means for enlarging, the means for enlarging being which is connected to [[the]] an other end of the actuator and elastically attached to the other end of the sensor at [[its]] an other end of the means for enlarging, whereby when the piezoelectric sensor is shrunk by the application of a potential

difference the means for enlarging is rotated about the other end of the means for enlarging by the actuator and the first and second electrodes are thereby brought into electrical contact.

4. (currently amended) The MEMS switch of claim 3, wherein the ~~enlarging means~~ second electrode is provided with a lateral electrode at its proximal end.

5. (new) The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of switching a contact switch "on" by contacting the first electrode to the second electrode.

6. (new) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of switching a contact switch "off" by removing the application of a potential difference to the piezoelectric sensor and thereby removing the contact the first electrode to the second electrode.

7. (new) The MEMS switch according to claim 4 in which the MEMS switch is a lateral switch.

8. (new) A MEMS switch comprising:

a piezoelectric sensor capable of being shrunk by the application of a potential difference and having a first electrode at a one end of the piezoelectric sensor;

an actuator connected at a one end of the actuator to the piezoelectric sensor;

means for enlarging the travel of the piezoelectric sensor having a second electrode at a one end of the means for enlarging,

wherein the second electrode faces the first electrode, the means for enlarging is connected to an other end of the actuator, and the means for enlarging has an other end that is elastically connected to an other end of the piezoelectric sensor.

9. (new) The MEMS switch according to claim 8 whereby when the piezoelectric sensor is shrunk by the application of a potential difference the means for enlarging is rotated about the other end of the means for enlarging by the actuator and the first and second electrodes are thereby brought into electrical contact.

10. (new) The MEMS switch according to claim 9 wherein the means for enlarging is shaped like a lever having a one end and an other end.
11. (new) The MEMS switch according to claim 9 whereby when the potential difference is removed from the piezoelectric sensor the means for enlarging is rotated about the other end of the means for enlarging by the actuator in an opposite direction by an elastic recovering force and the first and second electrodes are thereby brought out of electrical contact.